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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,050	08/07/2001	Christian L. Kuiawa	18133-097	6167

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EXAMINER

SURYAWANSHI, SURESH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2115

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/924,050

Applicant(s)

KUIAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Suresh K. Suryawanshi

Art Unit

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35 U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in the prior office action.
3. The rejections are respectfully maintained.

Drawings

4. This application, filed under former 37 CFR 1.60, lacks formal drawings. The informal drawings filed in this application are acceptable for examination purposes. When the application is allowed, applicant will be required to submit new formal drawings. In unusual circumstances, the formal drawings from the abandoned parent application may be transferred by the grant of a petition under 37 CFR 1.182.
5. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen et al (US Patent no 6,219,703 B1¹; hereinafter Nguyen) in view of Anderson et al (US Patent No 5,961,604; hereinafter Anderson²).

¹ Reference cited in information disclosure statement submitted by the applicants (dated 3/18/02).

² Prior art cited by the examiner in the prior office action.

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6. As per claims 1 and 7, Nguyen teaches

storing a plurality of configuration profiles, the configuration profiles having configuration settings to configure the devices [col. 2, lines 50-56; Management Information Bases (MIBs) for devices];

storing a list of devices to be managed [col. 2, lines 50-56; Network Management Station (NMS) comprises preloaded Management Information Bases (MIBs) for devices];

selecting at least a portion of the plurality of devices from the list of devices, and for each selected device, establishing communication with the device [col. 2, line 50 – col. 3, line 15; discovering if a device present, using the preloaded MIB for the device otherwise creating a new MIB for the device];

selecting a configuration profile from the plurality of configuration profiles to configure the UPS device [col. 1, lines 43-47; MIB for interfacing with a device; col. 2, lines 50-56; there are plurality of MIBs for devices]; and

transmitting configuration setting of the configuration profile to the device [col. 1, line 64 – col. 2, line 1; communicating with the device to control the device].

Nguyen does not expressly disclose wherein a device is a UPS device. But, a routineer in the art would realize that the method disclosed by Nguyen of discovering and managing a device in a network is not limited to a particular type of devices. The method can be implemented for any type of device including an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) device. However, Anderson expressly discloses that a network device can be a power supply device, for example an UPS device [col. 1, lines 20-23; col. 2, lines 32-40; col. 3, lines 18-33]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to configure and manage a plurality of UPS devices by utilizing the technique disclosed by Nguyen. Moreover, Nguyen also teaches a method for creating new management information for a device if the device was not listed in the preloaded Management Information Bases (MIBs) for devices managed by the Network Management Station (NMS). Thus, Nguyen provides a faster device configuration and management method. Further, managing and configuring an UPS device is very important in a network system as disclosed by Anderson [col. 2, lines 37-41].

7. As per claim 13, Nguyen teaches

a memory for storing a plurality of configuration profiles, the configuration profiles having configuration settings to configure the devices and the memory further storing a list of devices to be managed [col. 2, lines 50-56; Network Management Station (NMS) comprises preloaded Management Information Bases (MIBs) for devices]; and

means for configuring at least a portion of the plurality of devices from the list of devices using at least one of the configuration profiles [col. 2, line 50 – col. 3, line 15; discovering if a device present, using the preloaded MIB for the device otherwise creating a new MIB for the device].

Nguyen does not expressly disclose wherein a device is a UPS device. But, a routineer in the art would realize that the method disclosed by Nguyen of discovering and managing a device in a network is not limited to a particular type of devices. The method can be implemented for any type of device including an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) device. However, Anderson expressly discloses that a network device can be a power supply device, for example an UPS device [col. 1, lines 20-23; col. 2, lines 32-40; col. 3, lines 18-33]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to configure and manage a plurality of UPS devices by utilizing the technique disclosed by Nguyen. Moreover, Nguyen also teaches a method for creating new management information for a device if the device was not listed in the preloaded Management Information Bases (MIBs) for devices managed by the Network Management Station (NMS). Thus, Nguyen provides a faster device configuration and management method. Further, managing and configuring an UPS device is very important in a network system as disclosed by Anderson [col. 2, lines 37-41].

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8. As per claims 2 and 8, Nguyen teaches that establishing communication with an agent of the device [col. 1, 47-52; an agent in the device]; and transmitting configuration settings to the agent of the UPS device [col. 1, line 64 – col. 2, line 1; communicating with the device to control the device].

9. As per claims 3, 9 and 15, Nguyen teaches retrieving identification information of the device [Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 20-23] and thus retrieving the corresponding MIB for the device. Nguyen does not disclose about a system protection strategy field in the MIB structure. However, a routineer in the art would know that the given MIB structure could be modified accordingly. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the MIB table structure and add a system protection strategy. Moreover, having an extra search criteria will speed-up the searching process and it will help in configuring/managing a device.

10. As per claim 4, Nguyen teach retrieving a firmware version of the device [Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 20-23; version number]. Nguyen does not disclose about associating the device with a family. However, a routineer in the art would know that the given MIB structure could be modified accordingly. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the MIB table structure and add a family association with every device. Moreover, having an extra search criteria will speed-up the searching process and it will help in configuring/managing a device.

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11. As per claims 5, 11 and 17, Nguyen discloses about detecting an additional device to be configured that is added to the list of devices [col. 2, line 50 – col. 3, line 15; discovering if a device present on the network]; selecting the configuration profile applicable to the added device [col. 1, lines 43-47; MIB for interfacing with a device; col. 2, line 50 – col. 3, line 15; there are plurality of preloaded MIBs for devices and a new one can be created]; and transmitting configuration setting of the configuration profile to the added UPS device [col. 1, line 64 – col. 2, line 1; communicating with the device to control the device].

12. As per claims 6, 12 and 18, Nguyen discloses the invention substantially. Nguyen expressly discloses about having a set of Management Information Bases (MIBs) for devices [col. 2, lines 50-56]. Nguyen does not disclose about a second set of MIBs for devices. However, a routineer in the art would recognize this and will be able to duplicate the method to create another set of MIBs for devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a multiple sets of MIBs for devices. Thus, one will be able to do a quicker search for an appropriate configuration profile as the size of a set will be smaller and similar type of devices can be put into a particular set instead having a bigger set with all type of devices listed in it.

13. As per claim 10, Nguyen disclose that wherein the identification information stored in the device is a firmware version of the device [col. 3, lines 20-23; version number].

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14. As per claim 14, Nguyen teaches means for communicating with the device [col. 1, lines 64-66; a communication interface].

15. As per claim 15, Nguyen teaches

means for receiving identification information of the device [col. 3, lines 20-23;

MIB identifier; Fig. 2]; and

means for selecting the configuration profile applicable to the device based on the identification information [Fig. 2; col. 2, line 50 – col. 3, line 23].

Response to Arguments

16. Applicants' arguments filed 01/24/06 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

17. In the remarks, applicants argued in substance that (1) Nguyen does not expressly disclose wherein the device is a UPS device; (2) absent any suggestion of configuring a multiplicity of UPS devices at a network level either in Nguyen or in Anderson, there is no motivation or suggestion of applying the teachings of Nguyen to the configuration of a plurality of UPS devices in a systematized manner.

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18. As to point (1), the examiner fully agrees with applicants' remark that Nguyen does not expressly disclose wherein the device is a UPS device. Therefore, claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,219,703 (Nguyen) in view of US Patent 5,961,604 (Anderson).

19. As to point (2), the examiner respectfully disagrees with applicants. Nguyen clearly discloses a system and method of discovering and managing a device in a network and clearly provides a faster device configuration and management method. A routineer in the art would realize that the method disclosed by Nguyen is not limited to a particular group of network devices. The examiner does not find anywhere in the discloser of Nguyen if the UPS devices has been excluded. However, Anderson expressly discloses that networks contain network devices, such as power supplies. Remote controlling and status monitoring of these devices in the network is important [col. 1, lines 20-23]. Further, Anderson expressly discloses that the power supplies may be uninterruptible power supplies (UPS). The UPS devices must be controlled and their status must be monitored in order to ensure that the system is functioning properly [col. 2, lines 30-40]. Furthermore, Anderson expressly discloses a server/interface module that controls and monitors the status of the UPS devices [col. 3, lines 15-33]. Therefore, the faster network configuration technique of network devices disclosed by Nguyen can be applied to a network containing plurality of UPS devices.

Conclusion

20. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suresh K. Suryawanshi whose telephone number is 571-272-3668. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

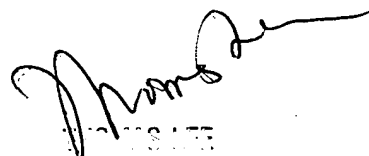
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sk

March 27, 2006



THOMAS LEE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20590
DATE: 03/27/2006